



8001 West Belmont Avenue
River Grove, IL 60171-1096
Phone 708.453.6233
Fax 708.453.6296
www.guerinprep.org

MEDIA CONTACT

Sr. Dawn Tomaszewski, SP
Director of Advancement
708-453-6233, Ext. 4708

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EUGENE O'NEILL'S *AH, WILDERNESS* COMES TO GUERIN PREP

Theatre-goers will have the opportunity to experience renowned playwright Eugene O'Neill's only comedy, when the theatre department of Guerin College Preparatory High School presents *Ah, Wilderness* on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 14 and 15 at 7 p.m. both days.

Taking place over the July Fourth weekend in 1906 in an idyllic Connecticut town, *Ah Wilderness* follows a day in the life of a wealthy family **and** offers a tender retrospective of small town family values, teen- age growing pains and young love.

"*Ah, Wilderness* is a wonderful script," explained Kristen Mackie, Guerin Prep's theatre teacher. "It is a sharp departure from the gritty reality of the author's renowned dramas. With its themes of family values and loving relationships, it should appeal to everyone."

Mackie, who serves as both the director and technical director for the play, recently received a lifetime achievement award from the Illinois High School Theatre Association for her outstanding theatrical work with young people.

(MORE)

2—Guerin Prep Fall Play

Ah, Wilderness focuses on the Miller family. Nat Miller, the owner of the *Evening Globe* newspaper, who has raised several children with his wife Essie, is portrayed by Senior Gerry Tuman of Chicago. Senior Natalie Cox plays Essie.

At the center of the play is a precocious Miller by the name of Richard, played by Sophomore Anthony Norman of Chicago. He is a strong-willed intellectual who is taken with Muriel McComber, played by Senior Rachel Weber.

Their strong but young love is tested when Richard's notes to Muriel are discovered by her parents, who have forbid her to see him. Distraught, Richard goes to a disreputable bar with his friend Wint, played by Freshman Jay Garcia, and shenanigans ensue.

The other Miller children are played by three Elmwood Park residents: Senior Eric Schulze as Arthur; Freshman Jenna Zacharias as Mildred; and Richie Zacharias, as Tommy. Richie, a fourth-grader at St. Celestine School, Elmwood Park, is Jenna's brother in real life.

Other cast members include Senior Jonathan Rojas of Melrose Park as Sid Davis, Essie's older brother, who was once engaged to Lily, Nat's sister. Senior Jessica Arroya of Chicago plays Lily.

Sophomore Anthony Huspen of Norridge plays David McComber, Muriel's father who breaks up her relationship with Richard. Rachel Holowicki of Franklin Park plays Belle, the young protestant who meets Richard at the bar. Senior Matt Thurman of Chicago plays the bartender, and Ryan Donnelly of River Grove plays the salesman with whom Richard gets into a fight at the bar.

Junior Megan Romberg takes the part of Nora, Mrs. Miller's maid.

The crew is headed by Caitlyn Lamantia of Chicago as stage manager. She is assisted by Christie Antipas, Filip Latocha, Mark Latocha, Rudy Melgar, Angeline Motzny, Vanessa Negron, Niki Shouse and Danielle Wade, all of Chicago.

3—Guerin Prep Fall Play

A special performance of *Ab, Wilderness* will be held Thursday, Nov. 13 at 10 a.m. for area elementary school students.

Tickets are \$8. Guerin Prep is located at 8001 W. Belmont Ave. in River Grove. For more information, call 708-453-6233, ext. 4762.

###